

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman:
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Editors:
Kaname Tsukahara

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EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The 44th General Meeting of the National Christian Education Association was held in Tucker Hall, St. Paul's University in Tokyo on May 28-29. Some 160 delegates representing 77 affiliated institutions were present, including the presidents of International Christian University, Aoyama Gakuin University, Kanto Gakuin University, Meiji Gakuin University, Doshisha University, St. Paul's University, Kansei Gakuin University, Kobe Girls College and Miyagi Girls College. Opening addresses were given by Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Matsushita of St. Paul's University, and the Reverend Kiyoshi Hirai of the National Christian Council. In addition to consideration of routine activities which constitute the major functions of the Association two significant decisions regarding the organization were made. The first concerned the name, which was changed to the Nihon Kirisutokyo Gakko Kyoiku Domei (Education Association of Christian Schools in Japan). The second concerned the election of eleven of the sixteen directors by the four area councils which will result in making these councils of greater significance than here to fore.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

In order to give more assistance to the physically handicapped, Japan Church World Service is considering the creation of some form of Goodwill Industries. At present the Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped of CWS is assisting disabled persons with the Kriete Rehabilitation Fund. However, the need for more assistance is recognized and a conference has been called for June 5 to lay definite plans for more effective and extensive effort in this area. Dr. Carl Kriete was the first general secretary of Japan Church World Service.

BRAILLE OLD TESTAMENT

The Japan Bible Society announces publication of a 24 volume Braille edition of the Colloquial Old Testament in August this year. But although there are about two thousand Christians among the 118,768 blind people in Japan, the first edition will consist of only 50 copies of each volume or 1,200 copies. They will have a unit price of ¥360 a volume but blind people will be permitted to buy for only ¥30 a volume. The society expects to be able to publish 10,000 volumes annually.

STRATEGY IN CHRISTIAN LITERATURE

The Literature Department of the National Christian Council held a conference for the promotion of literature evangelism at the Yamato Kan, Atami on May 22-23. Dr. Enkichi Kan, Dean of the Literature Department of St. Paul's University spoke on "Literature Evangelism in England." The Reverend Lee Palmore of Kobe discussed recent experiences in the "Utilization of Literature in Evangelism". "Young People and Literature Evangelism" was presented by Yasutaro Owaku, secretary of the National YMCA and "Promotion of Literature Evangelism" by the Reverend Shiro Aoyama, secretary of the Literature Evangelism of the Lutheran Church. Dr. Kan spoke especially of the work of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge in England and the activities of the Greek Orthodox Church in Europe. Emphasis in the discussions was on the strategic use of literature for the promotion of evangelism.

WAR DEAD REMAINS RECOVERY COMMISSION

The United Church of Christ has appointed the Reverend Ryoichi Kato to accompany the War Dead Remains Recovery Commission, of the Ministry of Public Welfare which is to leave Japan aboard the Taisei Maru June 20. This Commission is bound for the region of New Guinea Celebes, and Borneo. Representatives of the Buddhism and Shinto will also accompany the party, which is scheduled to return in mid-August.

MEIJI GAKUIN OPENS CONSULTATION CENTER

A "Child Consultation Center" was established at Meiji Gakuin University on May 19. Professor Tatsuo Wakabayashi is superintendent and Mr. Yoshio Otani the supervisor. Sixteen expert consultants will be available each Saturday afternoon for parents who wish to discuss their problems for a modest fee of ¥200 (about 55¢). The center includes interview rooms, psychological test rooms, play rooms and observation rooms.

DR. KAGAWA ON CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM

At the May meeting of the Tokyo District of the United Church of Christ Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, speaking on "Fundamental Problems of Christian Evangelism" said in substance: "According to statistical reports, the number of Christian in Japan has increased by 200,000 since the end of hostilities and now Catholic and Protestant Christians are about the same. However, in the last few years the rate of growth has tended to decline. The reasons for this being the increase of material atheism, the production of erotic literature and the prevalence of crimes of violence on the one hand; and Minister-centered churches which lack organization for general evangelism on the other. Evangelism, especially among laborers,, cannot succeed unless there is a lay organization for this purpose. The Christian message must enter into the lives of the people, and the cooperative movement must spread. Without these Christianity will not thrive. Missionaries can engage in relief activities but the problem of eliminating poverty must be accomplished by the Japanese."

SECOND ASIAN MASS COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Dr. Donald Ebright, General Secretary of the Audio Visual Department of the NCC in India was "surprised to find that Audio Visual evangelism in Japan has made such great progress." Speaking at a NCC reception on May 21, he expressed the hope that many of his "countrymen will attend the Asia Audio Visual Conference and the World Sunday School Convention which will be held in Japan in 1958." Mr. Solomon Saprid of the Audio Visual Department of the Philippine NCC on the same occasion stated that "The Philippines need Japanese leadership in every cultural field." "American equipment", he said, "is very expensive so we want to buy Japanese machines and apparatus for rural evangelism." Messrs. Ebright and Saprid have been attending a meeting of the Asian Mass Communications Continuation Committee preparatory for the second Asian Conference in which is to be held at the AVACO Center in Tokyo, July 30 - August 3, 1958 prior to the opening of the World Sunday School Convention: up to eight delegates are to be invited from the area bounded by Pakistan, Japan and the Philippines.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

A National Conference on "Church and Community" is to be held at Amagi Sanso in the Izu peninsula September 4-6 under the auspices of the United Church of Christ in Japan. Professor Hidenobu Kuwada, President of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary will speak on "Theological Understanding of Church and Community;" and Professor Eiichi Isobe of the Tokyo Metropolitan University will present "Ecumenical Social Problems of the Church and Community". Discussion leaders are to be the Reverend Kensaku Tazaki, pastor of the Hongo Yumicho Church, on "Social Activities of the Church"; Professor Sadao Tanikawa, Professor in the Social Work Junior College on "Nursery Schools and the Community", and Honorable Tamotsu Hasegawa, Speaker of the House of Representative, on "Cooperatives and Labor". A total registration of approximately sixty persons will include the chairman of the fourteen districts, members of the Social Problems, Childhood Education and several related committees and representatives of Japan Church World Service.

IN BRIEF

The Reverend Yorikazu Manabe, chairman and the Reverend Hallam Shorrock, General Secretary of Japan Church World Service, left for a world conference at Lerroux, Switzerland, May 24.

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The Literature Commission of the National Christian Council will hold a conference at Amagi Sanso, Izu peninsula June 11-12 on children's literature.

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The Japan Bible Society in cooperation with AVACO is planning to produce phonograph records of the Bible for use with the blind and for general purposes. While such recordings have been produced in Europe and America this will be the first time for Japan. At present the project is in the experimental stage.

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Dr. Enkichi Kan, Dean of the Literary Department of the St. Paul's University was the principal speaker at the Young people Rally held at City YWCA on May 25. The Movie "John Wedey" was also shown at the same program.

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The 70th Anniversary of the Kyobun Kan, now know as the Christian Center was celebrated on May 31. In 1889 when it was founded by the Methodist Mission, it was merely a small shop. When it was destroyed in 1923 earthquake and fire it occupied a two-story frame structure. The present nine storey fire-proof structure was completed in 1930. During the week of June 1-7 there will be a memorial sale.

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The NCC Literature Department is holding a conference on Christian Literature at the Tozanso in Gotenba August 2-4. Scheduled speakers are Prof. Genji Takahashi of Meiji Gakuin University on "English Literature and Christianity." Miss Hanako Muraoka, editor of New Age, on "Home Literature and Christianity;" Mr. Kenji Uesawa of Christian Writer, on "Christian Literature and Christianity;" Rev. Yasuji Nishizuka; Pastor of the Osaka Tennoji Church, on "Literature Evangelism Today;" and Professor Bunjiro Sekine on "Composition."

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